

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2615

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPAS, CPRS, SA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONSULAR ASSISTANCE (DOUGLAS, PAUL)

REF STATE STATE 241573

SENATOR DALE BUMPERS INTEREST.

1. EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER TALKED OVER PHONE WITH MESSRS. MIKE FOWLER AND DOUGLAS ROBINSON (LATTER BRITISH CITIZEN) OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL OFFICES KING FAISAL HOSPITAL REGARDING SUBJECT AND OTHER TOPICS RAISED IN REFTEL. PAUL DOUGLAS DEPARTED SAUDI ARABIA ON OCTOBER 9. REPORTEDLY DOUGLAS RESIGNED JOB AT HOSPITAL. HOSPITAL DISPUTES HIS CLAIM OF BREACH OF CONTRACT, AND STATED IT HONORED ALL STIPULATIONS IN CONTRACT DOUGLAS ACCEPTED AND SIGNED TO ON HIS RECRUITMENT. PASSPORTS WERE DETAINED TEMPORARILY TO OBTAIN EXIT VISA WHICH ONLY HOSPITAL AS SPONSORING EMPLOYER CAN DO. EMBASSY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT NEED FOR COMPANIES TO PERFORM EMPLOYEES VISA SERVICES. EMPLOYEES CONTRACT IS WITH SAUDI GOVERNMENT. DELAY IN PROCESSING DOUGLAS DEPARTURE CAUSED BY NECESSITY TO OBTAIN TICKETS FROM SAUDI GOVERNMENT WHICH DELAYED BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS.

2. ACCORDING TO THE HOSPITAL THE 50 DISAFFECTED PEOPLE CITED BY MR. DOUGLAS ARE THE TOTAL NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES WHO HAVE RESIGNED OVER A PERIOD OF 8 OR 10 MONTHS AND COMPRISE A DOZEN OR MORE NATIONALITIES. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE RECURRING REPORTS OF EMPLOYEE DISSATISFACTION AT KING FAISAL, AT THE PRESENT TIME EMBASSY

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CONSULAR SECTION HAS NO SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM

ANY OTHER AMERICAN AT THE HOSPITAL. EMBASSY CONSULAR OFFICER HAS COUNSELLED, MEDIATED AND TRIED TO DEAL WITH COMPLAINTS OF A NUMBER OF AMERICANS EMPLOYED AT THE HOSPITAL DURING HIS ONCE MONTHLY VISIT TO RIYADH FROM JIDDA AND BY TELEPHONE. HOSPITAL IS COOPERATIVE IN CASES.

3. HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES STATE THAT NO EMPLOYEE IS PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THEIR JOBS BEFORE THE END OF THEIR CONTRACT. THEY MAY QUIT AT ANYTIME BUT ARE LIABLE TO CERTAIN COMPENSATORY RESTRICTIONS IF THIS DONE BEFORE CERTAIN AGREED UPON TIME PERIODS, FOR EXAMPLE RESIGNING WITH TWO MONTHS.

4. EMBASSY SEEKING TO OBTAIN MORE COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON KING FAISAL EMPLOYER/EMPLOYEE ARRANGEMENTS IN ORDER HAVE BALANCED PERSPECTIVE ON COMPLAINTS OF AMERICANS, HOSPITAL REBUTTALS, AND PARTICIPATION OF SAUDI GOVERNMENT IN SCHEME OF THINGS. UNTIL THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED IT PERHAPS NOT PROPITIOUS OCCASSION TO RAISE MATTER WITH SAG. WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS THAT MAY APPEAR NECESSARY TO ASSIST IN WELFARE OF U.S. CITIZENS AND THE PROTECTION OF THEIR U.S. DOCUMENTATION.

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